

What is Claimed:

1 1. A remote control system for an electronic device, comprising:
2 a processor in the electronic device that generates information to be displayed
3 as an on-screen display (OSD);
4 a transmitter in the electronic device that transmits the generated information
5 as an OSD information signal; and
6 a remote control unit, comprising:
7 a receiver which receives the OSD information signal;
8 a data processor which processes the OSD information signal to
9 generate the OSD; and
10 a display device operably linked to the data processor which displays
11 the generated OSD.

1 2. A remote control system according to claim 1, wherein the remote
2 control unit further comprises a memory for storing generic OSD data, wherein the data
3 processor generates the OSD responsive to the OSD information signal and the generic OSD
4 data.

1 3. A remote control system according to claim 1, wherein the processor
2 in the electronic device generates an OSD bitmap as the OSD information and the remote
3 control unit further comprises a memory for storing the OSD bitmap.

1 4. A remote control system according to claim 3, wherein the processor
2 of the remote control unit down samples the OSD bitmap stored in the memory to produce a
3 down sampled OSD for display on the display device.

1 5. A remote control system according to claim 1, wherein the electronic
2 device further comprises a further display device, operably coupled to the electronic device
3 and the processor of the electronic device is responsive to a command provided by the
4 remote control unit to selectively suppress display of the OSD on the further display device.

1 6. A remote control system according to claim 1, wherein:
2 the OSD information includes menu information including a plurality of
3 options; and

4 the remote control unit further includes:
5 an input device for selecting one option from among the plurality of
6 options when the menu information is displayed; and

7 a transmitter for transmitting information concerning the selected
8 option to the electronic device.

1 7. A remote control system according to claim 6, wherein the remote
2 control unit is a personal digital assistant.

1 8. A remote control system according to claim 1, wherein the OSD
2 information is selected from a group consisting of menu information, closed caption
3 information and electronic program guide information.

1 9. A remote control method for use with an electronic device, comprising
2 the steps of:

3 generating, in the electronic device, on-screen display (OSD) information to
4 be displayed as an OSD;

5 transmitting the generated OSD information from the electronic device;

6 receiving the OSD information at a remote control unit;

7 processing the received OSD information to generate the OSD; and

8 displaying the generated OSD on a display device operably linked to the
9 remote control device.

1 10. A remote control method according to claim 9, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 storing generic OSD data in the remote control unit; and

4 generating the OSD responsive to the received OSD information signal and the
5 generic OSD data.

1 11. A remote control method according to claim 9, wherein:

2 the step of generating the OSD information includes the step of generating an
3 OSD bitmap; and

4 the process further includes the step of storing the OSD bitmap in the remote
5 control unit.

1 12. A remote control method according to claim 11, further including the
2 step of down sampling the OSD bitmap stored in the memory to produce a down sampled
3 OSD for display on the display device linked to the remote control unit.

1 13. A remote control method according to claim 9, wherein:

2 the step of generating the OSD information includes the step of generating
3 menu information including a plurality of options; and

4 the method further includes the steps of:

5 selecting one option from among the plurality of options when the
6 menu information is displayed; and

7 transmitting information concerning the selected option to the
8 electronic device.

1 14. A remote control method according to claim 9, wherein the OSD
2 information is selected from a group consisting of menu information, closed caption
3 information and electronic program guide information.

1 15. A remote control method according to claim 9, wherein the electronic
2 device is operably coupled to a further display device, and the method further includes the
3 step of selectively suppressing display of the OSD on the further display device, responsive
4 to a command from the remote control unit.

1 16. A computer readable carrier including computer program instructions
2 for a remote control unit for use with an electronic device, the electronic device generating
3 on-screen display (OSD) information and transmitting the OSD information as an OSD
4 information signal, the computer program instructions causing the remote control unit to
5 perform a method comprising the steps of:

6 receiving the OSD information signal;
7 processing the received OSD information signal to generate the OSD; and
8 displaying the generated OSD on a display device operably linked to the
9 remote control unit.

1 17. A computer readable carrier according to claim 16, wherein the
2 computer program instructions further cause the remote control unit to perform the steps of:

3 storing generic OSD data in the remote control unit; and
4 generating the OSD responsive to the received OSD information signal and the
5 generic OSD data.

1 18. A computer readable carrier according to claim 16, wherein the
2 electronic device generates the OSD information as an OSD bitmap and the computer
3 program instructions further cause the remote control unit to perform the step of storing the
4 OSD bitmap.

1 19. A computer readable carrier according to claim 18, wherein the
2 computer program instructions further cause the remote control unit to perform the step of
3 down sampling the OSD bitmap stored in the memory to produce a down sampled OSD for
4 display on the display device.

1 20. A computer readable carrier according to claim 16, wherein the
2 electronic device generates menu information including a plurality of options as the OSD
3 information and the computer program instructions further cause the remote control unit to
4 perform the steps of:

- 5 receiving a selection of one option from among the plurality of options when
- 6 the menu information is displayed; and
- 7 transmitting information concerning the selected option to the electronic
- 8 device.

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